

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6th, 2020

Theme: Israel had strayed and was exiled. But God was not done with her yet. God promised the Holy Spirit, which would bring dreams and visions of a life far better than this.

PRELUDE

Autumn Leaves

J. Kosma

Cathy Parker: violin; Claudia Fitzpatrick: cello

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Holy God, we confess that we have forgotten what this season is about – the birth of Jesus.

We get confused, so we wrap ourselves with planning, and shopping, and gift giving and sending,

with so much decorating and card-writing and partying that we haven't left any time...

to sit in the dark, to sit in silence,

to contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation and to give thanks for this one life that changed the world. We have celebrated so many Christmases, and yet –

we still need You to remind us what this season is all about,

to turn us around and set us in the right direction.

Make the generosity that drives us this season be present all year.

May the intentional reaching out to the far-flung and the neighbor continue beyond the holidays. May our hearts, full of so much, be full of love,

For You, for each other, and for ourselves. Heal us, we pray.

Hear this Good News! God could not love you any more than God loves you at this very moment. You are that beloved. Know that wrapped in love, grace and forgiveness, for today and always. **Amen**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

OPENING SONG

Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory

Haugen

**Joyous light of heav'nly glory, loving glow of God's own face,
you who sing creation's story, shine on ev'ry land and race.**

Now as (morning dawns*) around us, we shall raise our songs to you. *original words are (evening falls)

God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.

**In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn,
in the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song.**

**Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul,
love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.**

**You who made the heaven's splendor, ev'ry dancing star of night,
make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light.**

**Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way,
loving Spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Today, as we relight the candle of **HOPE**, we light the candle, the candle of **PEACE**. As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we remember that Jesus is our hope and our peace. From the prophet Isaiah:

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” —Isaiah 9:6-7

ADVENT HYMN

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

#240 v.2

**Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently leading them homeward**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: **Steadfast God, You never abandoned your people when they were at their lowest. Hold your promises before our eyes that they might shine brighter than any darkness which threatens to overcome us, for the sake of your son Jesus. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Can't Help Falling in Love with You

Weiss

Cathy Parker: violin; Claudia Fitzpatrick: cello

FIRST READING

Joel 2:12-13; 28-29

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL

Luke 11:5-13

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 11th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
The reading concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

SERMON HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

#249

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.**

**We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

**Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.**

**All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he
descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated
at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness
of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. God of Hope, **hear our prayer.**

Our eyes await the fulfillment of all your promises, the answer to all our prayers: your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ who taught us to pray...

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✚ now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Morning Has Broken

#256

**Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning, born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning, God's recreation of the new day!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Stay safe and be safe. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square

Sherwin/Maschwitz

Cathy Parker: violin; Claudia Fitzpatrick: cello

Thank you Cathy and Claudia for such beautiful music this morning!